11/6/68

To Louis Ivon

From Harold Weisberg

Oswald's literature program distribution.

On Monday I gave you a list of names of those said by the FBI to have observed Oswald's FPCC distribution. Among these, two that interested me most are those of Lawrence Bright, then of the New Orleans Printing Co., 429 Camp Street, and Roberto Martinez Martinez.

The New Orleans Printing Co. and Bright are no longer at that address or in the phone book. Bright had spent some time in Cuba, spoke Spanish, and had seen Oswald earlier. The FBI quoted him as saying he did not recall when, but without evidence they had inquired of him what the occasion, or where, which makes more interesting the notation of having seen Oswald at all.

Roberto Martinez had lived at 3122 Magazine St. He had worked at the Reiss Candy Co., 411 Decatur, from September 14, 1963 until just after the first of the year, if I understood Reiss correctly. It is possible I incorrectly noted what he told me because he has two sets of cards for this one man, originally leading him to tell me the employment period was for but a couple of weeks. In any event, the employment seems to have ended about the time of FBI interest. Social security no. 435-68-8535. Born 6/30/30. I told you Martinez didn't speak English, which is the import of the FBI reports, but Reiss said he spoke well but with a heavy accent.

Reiss employed a number of Cubans in August 1963, perhaps 20, but none of them were steady. The fact of Martinez's employment in this period indicates my note on the dates in in error. I think the total period was about 6 months. At first Reiss didn't recall Martinez at all, even with his distinguishing physical characteristic, but as I got him and his two women employees in the office to engage in a dialogue about this, suddenly he did recall Martinez as a very fast worker who, however, did not get along well with the others or people generally.

Reiss recalled that he then used a mint-scented disinfectant. Martinez liked the aroma so well he sprayed the entire stockroom with it. At the time of this employment Martinez was single. His phone was 895-1207.

Reiss is positive that Martinez hit Oswald in the mouth in front of the I.M. Martinez was a friend of Emilio Limbet, on whom you have earlier memos from me. Emilio is now a waiter at Las Americas, of Andrew Pena. He lives above it. He appears not to have been home yesterday a.m.

It is also posible he was at home, recognized my voice or name, and instructed his wife to say he wasn't there and that she didn't know when he'd return. For a man xxxx whose work day begins at 5 p.m., 10;30 a.m. is an early hour to be away. I will return to Las Americas when he is working, if I have time.

My earlier interest was without benefit of this knowledge but had to do with what he might have observed as a waiter.

Emilio is wired both ways. He now has an infant child.

Part of these FBI reports is one having to do with one Father Anthony at the Ozanam Inn, in the same block of Camp. It seems, from the FBI, that he sent those who could not speak English to Bright. However, it seems that Martinez did. Yet Bright said the two men sent him (the other known only as Rafael) did not. Rafael, according to the Ozanam records, could not have been in New Orleans at the time of the IRM distribution, not for a period of several months. Thus we have Bright, with his interesting background, having two wrong men sent him as well as one for whom there was no need for Bright's services. He said these men were his friends, yet he did not know their last names. More, there is no indication how the FBI decided Martinez might have been one.

Father Anthony was Brother Anthony, of the Brothers of Mercy. Inquiry at Ozanam disclosed that he did not renew his vows. They say they have no knowledge of his present whereabouts. He became an alcoholic, was treated at Charity and then sent to Mandeville State Hospital.

This whole episode is provocative and flags attention. Anthony was known by no other name. It may not have been his real one.